

# MISSION-NEWS-SOMERSET

March 2019

## News

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, the growing congregation at St Anne's, West Wick, Weston-super-Mare, an out-reach congregation supported by Locking Castle Local Ecumenical Partnership, witnessed the signing of a **Declaration of Intent** by Bishop Peter Hancock (Bishop of Bath and Wells) and Revd Gary Woodall (Regional Minister of the West of England Baptist Association), supported by Major Alan Dixon on behalf of Churches Together in Somerset. The members of this informal missional community gathering were pleased to have the support of Church Leaders and the wider ecumenical community as they take a step into an unknown future with respect of being Church in their neighbourhood. The growing congregation and youth and family work is making a "light and salt" difference.



*"That we should act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel us to act Separately"*

- The Lund Principle

**Leaders of five Christian World Communions attended** an ecumenical prayer service in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, United States, marking the opening of a four-day consultation of five Christian World Communions discussing the historic importance of the [Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification](#) (JDDJ) and its impact on the search for full, visible unity of the church. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Roman Catholic Church signed the JDDJ on 31 October 1999 in Augsburg, Germany. It has since been joined or substantially affirmed by the World Methodist Council (WMC), the Anglican Communion and the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). The 26-28 March consultation marks the first time that all five JDDJ partners have come together to see how the historic agreement can help move the churches closer toward their goal of Christian unity.



## In This Issue

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**100,000 magazines ordered** 'It's a very good read' according to Jayne – one of HOPE's Facebook friends commenting on the latest *HOPE at Easter* magazine. HOPE TOGETHER are thrilled that more than 100,000 copies of *HOPE at Easter* have been ordered so far. The 32-page magazine explores the theme of forgiveness with lots of stories from ordinary people and celebrities.



**Fresh Expressions (FX)** brought in a creative new structure and leadership model in March 2019 as Phil Potter completed his role as Team Leader. Phil Potter stepped down from his role as 'Archbishops' Missioner and Team Leader Fresh Expressions' after 5 years. As part of the process of change and in response to the rapidly changing nature of the Fresh Expressions movement in the UK, the organisation had engaged in a listening exercise across the movement and decided on some significant changes for 2019 resulting in a specific focus on 'connecting and catalyzing the fresh expressions movement' within a framework of "network of networks" rather than simply as a single organisation.

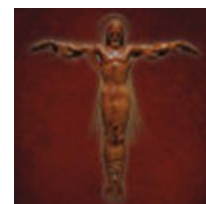
The latest version of the monthly mailing of news from **Churches Together in England** is now available at: [www.cte.org.uk/news](http://www.cte.org.uk/news) .

## Events

### **Wells Cathedral. PALM SUNDAY 14 April, 3.00pm PHILIP WILBY 'ST MATTHEW PASSION' (world premiere).**

Commissioned by *Cathedral Commissions* of Wells Cathedral, this major new setting of the *St Matthew Passion* is to be given its World Premiere by Wells Cathedral Choir within a service for Palm Sunday.

Admission: free. Retiring collection in aid of Wells Cathedral



Also at **Wells Cathedral** Good Friday 19 April, 7.30pm **BATH CAMERATA: THE GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT**, Benjamin Goodson (conductor). For their thirty-second Good Friday Concert, Bath Camerata performs Bach's *Der Geist Hilft* and *Komm Jesu, Komm* alongside James MacMillan's extraordinary *Miserere*, and works from the *Strathclyde Motets*. The concert also includes works by Friedrich Cerha and Heinrich Schütz. Admission is free with a retiring collection in aid of Wells Cathedral Music.

### **Monday 15th - Monday 22nd April - The Art Group at St. Michaels and friends are presenting an EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS, POETRY, PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS**

All are welcome to come to view it in the church every morning in Holy Week, from Monday 16th to Saturday 20th April, between 10.00 am and 12 noon, on Easter Sunday between 11.30am and noon, and on Easter Monday between 10.00am and noon.

And YOU ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE! If you would like to contribute please contact Alison Brown on 01823 288931 or [alisonbrown100@live.co.uk](mailto:alisonbrown100@live.co.uk) between Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 11th April.

**Faith at the Musicals. Sat 4 May** 7.30pm - 9.30pm St Michael's Centre, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS34 8PD **Price:** £6 (Family tickets are available at £18 for 4 people) **Booking:** [Click Here](#). Join West End Has Faith singers (a group of professional singers working in musical theatre, who are Christian or interested in exploring their faith) from London's West End for a magical night at the musicals as they bring the passion and power of some of the most well-loved West End musical numbers. They'll be sharing their own stories and speaking about the work of Tearfund.

**Handel's Messiah** Saturday 11 May 7pm with Bath Abbey Choirs of Girls and Men at Bath Abbey, conducted by Huw Williams and accompanied by leading early music ensemble, Canzona. The *Messiah*, composed in 1742, remains one of George Frederic Handel's most well-known and best-loved works. Ticket prices ranging from £7 - £12 from Bath Box Office 01225 463 362 / [www.bathboxoffice.org.uk](http://www.bathboxoffice.org.uk)



**STOP PRESS**



Plans are progressing for a number of open-air prayer events throughout Somerset as part of Churches Together in Somerset involvement with this global prayer initiative.

More details in the next newsletter.

Look out for information

**May 30 — June 9**



**Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Initiative 40th May—9th June**

The Blessing Church in Bridgwater and Riverside Church Taunton, invite you to an **'Evening with Dennis DeGrasse'** on Wed May 15th 7.30pm at The Green, Wembdon, Holmberg Way, TA67BY. Further details Chris Stone (Riverside) or Linda Herbert (Blessing Church) [0781145743](tel:0781145743) or [07847343311](tel:07847343311) or [01278428957](tel:01278428957) [inglami77@gmail.com](mailto:inglami77@gmail.com) [ifo@theeaglemountainchurch.com](mailto:ifo@theeaglemountainchurch.com)

**New Housing Conference** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 10:00 – 16:00

Quaker Meeting House, Taunton. Keynote speakers: Revd Ali Boulton (Baptist SW), leader of the national New Housing Hub and co-author of Pioneer Association Ministry in New Housing Areas: Personal Reflections and a Practical Guide, and David Maggs (Mission Team leader for the Diocese of Bath and Wells) Workshops from parish and deanery leaders and pioneer practitioners in areas of new housing. Lunch and refreshments provided. Please register your interest with [allie.white@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:allie.white@bathwells.anglican.org)

**Unbelievable? The Conference is back!** The theme of this year's conference is Speaking Truth in a post-truth world. Half of Christians say they won't share their faith with others. There is a crisis of confidence. The time has come for our generation to stand for truth again. This means knowing what we believe and why. And having the confidence to share it boldly. This year's Unbelievable? conference will feature more than 10 world class speakers across multiple seminars helping you to give reasons for the hope you have. Join me on Saturday 20th July at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London. For more information contact [premier@premierchristianmedia.co.uk](mailto:premier@premierchristianmedia.co.uk)

## Opportunities.

The Diocese of Bath and Wells have recently launched a recruitment campaign to help raise the profile of what it means to be a school governor and how people can help their local schools by volunteering. You don't need to be a member of the Church of England, or even a practicing Christian to be a governor in a church school; you just need to have an understanding and appreciation of the Christian Values which the school incorporates. To find out more about the campaign, please visit their webpage: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/2018/09/could-you-be-a-school-governor/>. Or email the education team: [education@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:education@bathwells.anglican.org)

## Resources.

Roots has produced all age resources for Holy Week based on paintings by Ethiopian artist Nebiyu Assefa. The pictures tell the story of Jesus' Passion in a distinctive and moving way, aimed at helping people to engage with Jesus' journey to the cross and beyond. There are seven pictures, each presented with resources for meditation/reflection, sermons, talks and worship activities. They can be downloaded from the [Roots website](#).



Latest **Sorted** magazines for mission and outreach: [link here](#)

Share the Easter story: online video 'Three Friends and the Miracle Man' for children: [link here](#)

Who? **Retelling the Bible for the uninitiated**. Reprinted by the Bible Society: [link here](#)

**Speak Life Foundry**- creatives for evangelism Training and producing creative resources for church: [link here](#)

**Amplify** - the youth arm of Advance 2020 Training and releasing evangelists to do mission: [link here](#)

100K Easter booklets ordered From **Hope** for outreach: [link here](#)

**Are you prepared for Easter?** CPO Worthing have many ideas for mission and outreach. <https://www.cpo.org.uk/catalogue.aspx?cat=2310> Their Easter-themed [Good News Newspaper](#) is packed with great articles for people to read in their own time.

A new introductory video on the 'About' page of [www.cte.org.uk](http://www.cte.org.uk) by CTE General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Paul Goodliff, is here Video link: <https://vimeo.com/314464201> Do use the Vimeo link to show this video to anyone interested in the question, '**What is Churches Together in England?**'.

Thy Kingdom Come **new branding for TKC 2019!** Follow this link to find a holding slide with dates for this year: [TKC 2019 Branding](#)

**And finally ...**

**Crossing Divides' – friends who are good for the brain.** Jim Currin from the CTE national office writes: 'I saw this item on the BBC News app and thought how much it relates to the ecumenical journey – making friends with people who are *not* like you seems to be healthy!' The item reads: When people are exposed to a more diverse group of people, their brains are forced to process complex and unexpected information. The more people do this, the better they become at producing complex and unexpected information themselves. This trains us to look more readily look beyond the obvious - precisely the hallmark of creative thinking <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47369648>

**I am the Good Shepherd**

## Contact Us

Give me a call for more information on ecumenical life, witness and mission in **Churches Together in Somerset**, Alan Dixon, 8 Applewood Close, Chippenham SN14 0JG Email [sctogether@outlook.com](mailto:sctogether@outlook.com) Tel: 01249 323475 Mobile: 07496 674331

